Purchase of handloom clothes by the Ministries

†4114. SHRI BALKAV1 BA1RAG : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether handloom clothes are given preference in purchase of clothes as per the requirement of various Ministries of the Government of India :

(b) if so. what is the procedure for purchasing cloth;

(c) the quantity and amount of mill-made cloth as well as handloom cloth purchased by the Ministry of Railways out of total purchase of cloths during the year 2000-2001; and

(d) whether Government will direct the Ministry of Railways that under the policy to provide employment to the weavers, only handloom clothes should be purchased ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Government has issued instructions on the arrangements for purchase of handloom goods for use by Central Government Ministries/Departments on the basis of Single Tender System.

(b) The indenting Ministries/Departments place their indents for supply of handloom items under Single Tender System on Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handlooms {AC ASH). AC ASH in turn places orders on State/member agencies for production and supply of handloom items depending upon their production capacity. AC ASH arranges the supply of the handloom items from those agencies.

(c) The Ministry of Railways has informed that out of total purchase orders of approximate value of Rs. 57.23 crore for cloth items, placed in the year 2000-2001, the approximate value of mill-made items was Rs. 33.11 crore and handloom items Rs. 9.10 crore.

(d) It is not considered appropriate to issue any such direction.

Decline in Indian tourists visiting Nepal

4115. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of TOUR ISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Nepal tourism from India has gone down considerably after massacre of royal family and after Government of India and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Nepal, on the ground of India's security perception, made it obligatory for everyone who visits Nepal by Air should possess a passport or voter I.D:

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has affected both Nepali and Indian businessmen, particularly Indian cottage industries who supply most of the items required by Nepal Tourism: and

(c) the steps taken by Government to safeguard the interest of Indian businessmen in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) There has been decline in the number of Indian tourists visiting Nepal in recent time.

(b) and (c) We have no confirmed reports of loss of business in the cottage industries of Nepal or India as a result of decline in the volume of tourists. However, India Airlines continue to operate their Flights to Nepal^existing mechanisms between the two countries to promote trade and tourism look into such issues on a continuous basis.

Condition of ITDC Hotels

†4116. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'Punjab Kesari' dated 7"' January and 20"' June, 1999 captioned "Paryatan Vikas Nigam Ka Hotel division Doobta Jahaj" and *'Bhartiya Paryatan Nigam Mein Kan in ankush nan in";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the action taken/propose to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Necessary action is taken by the ITDC management on specific complaints and also suggestions regarding performance of the Company.

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